

### XIII.—DEPARTURE OF THE QUAYSIDE WALL ; AND WHAT BECAME OF IT.

BY JAMES CLEPHAN.

[Read on the 23rd February, 1887.]

WHEN the rebellion of 1745 had broken out in Scotland, and it was uncertain by what route England would be invaded, the inhabitants of Newcastle, acting in concert with the Government, placed themselves in defensive array. Walls, and gates, and towers were made strong and secure, for the last time in our annals.

Affairs in general were in this critical and uneasy posture, and there was especial anxiety in one of the historic homes of the fortified town on the Tyne—the home of the famous coal-fitter in Love Lane. It was expedient that Mrs. Scott should, in the emergency, be removed ; and she was let down in the night-time from the Quayside Wall, and borne over the river to the southern shore ; where, at Heworth, in the county palatine of Durham, she became the mother of her husband's namesake, the future Lord Stowell. We are all familiar with the successful career of the two eminent Quaysiders, William and John Scott, in the Grammar School of Newcastle, and remember how, at Oxford University, they achieved fellowships in their teens, each of them passing onward to the House of Lords, and the younger of the two reaching the Woolsack. Is there any Novocastrian who has not pointed out to some stranger the narrow door of the wide window from which Bessie Surtees descended to the arms of her youthful lover on the Sandhill, the coronet of a countess hovering over her golden locks as she stepped down the ladder to her fortune ? It is not, however, with this pretty romance of real life that we have to do, but with the Quayside Wall, running along by the river for generations ; how it passed away at the last ; and what became of it on its fall.

The Scottish host came not across the Borders by the eastern but the western way ; and George the Second, whose throne they had menaced, wore the crown until the peaceful accession of his grandson,

George the Third. The mural defences of Newcastle had been suffered gradually to drop into indolent decay. But the new reign would seem to have been as electric as the coming of the Prince in Tennyson's verse ; the town awoke out of slumber ; and among the movements of the time, the Quayside Wall was to have singular transformation. "The Sandgate Chappell" of Buck's "South East Prospect of Newcastle," ruinous and insufficient—why should it not be renewed and enlarged at the cost of the lingering and obstructive barrier ? The happy idea was broached in the Council Chamber, September, 1762, Auboné Surtees, father of Lady Eldon, being Mayor ; and on the 17th of November, a corporate petition, addressed to the King, was heard and considered by the youthful monarch, the Privy Council assembling at the Court of St. James. Mayor, Aldermen, Sheriff, etc., were there on behalf of the ancient town on the Tyne. The Quayside Wall, "from the Sandhill to the Sandgate Gate," was shown to be "not of any use for defence ;" and being "on the quay where all goods were landed and shipped off, it was a very great obstacle to carriages, and a hindrance to the dispatch of business." The Corporation therefore prayed leave to remove it, "and make use of the stones and other materials for building a church." The prayer was granted, and the inhabitants of Newcastle had the prospect before them of possessing "one of the most convenient and beautiful quays in the kingdom."

All was now in trim for a beginning ; and early in January, 1763, workmen were busy pulling down the wall, one of whose latest exploits had been to extemporize, out of a December storm of rain, an oblong lake in front of the houses that it screened from the river. The unpicturesque pool was a parting tribulation ; and so unpopular had the antiquity already become, that not even the most tolerant of the Quayside antiquaries regretted its departure.

Let us look round about us, while its conversion into a church is in progress, and see what else is going on during the decade marked by this adventurous municipal project. The churchyards of St. Nicholas, St. John, and Allhallows, are enclosed. Oil-lamps are sending forth their feeble rays in enterprising endeavours to light the public streets ; and he who is conversant with the *Anecdote Book* of Lord Eldon, as instructive as it is entertaining, will not need to be

reminded how, in the winter nights of the year, the tricky juveniles are addicted to playing pranks on "the sad and discreet burgesses" of the borough. One of the imps creeps on hands and knees into the shop of some tradesman sitting at the receipt of custom in Cimmerian gloom, and, stealthily starting up to his feet, blows out the victim's light, and immerses him in total darkness. The seniors, however, have their joys, despite the embryo merchant adventurers of the Grammar School, who are the ringleaders in all such modes of mischief. A turtle of 53 lbs., "sent as a present to the owners of the new sugar-house in Gateshead," is dressed for dinner, in the summer of 1764, at the King's Head on the Quayside; after which, the River God Tyne forwards to Newcastle Market, in successful rivalry, a salmon of 57, trumping by 4 lbs. the intrusive turtle.

Meanwhile, not to lose sight too long of St. Ann's or the Wall, the Mayor (William Clayton), accompanied by sundry of his colleagues, is marking out a piece of ground for the new chapel, near the old, at the east end of Sandgate, to seat six hundred of the inhabitants; and ere long the discovery is made that the crumbling edifice is in too advanced a state of decay to wait for a successor; so the Carpenters' Tower (or Shipwrights' Hall) is temporarily fitted up for divine service.

Facing the river, on the Quayside, a site is also cleared, midway in the decade, near the Low Crane, for a new custom-house; and even the Newcastle waggon, leaving the Sandhill for London, catches up the quickening spirit, and is holding out a promise of being less drowsy on the road. Smollett, who knew the venerable vehicle, looks in upon the twin towns of the Tyne for one or more days, and leaves behind him, in *Humphrey Clinker*, a pleasant reminiscence of the prospect outspread before him from the summit of Gateshead Fell. About the time of the poet and novelist's visit, there is advertised "for sale by candle," at the Newcastle Coffee House in Billingsgate, "the good cat" *Thomas and Jane*, Yarmouth-built, throwing her suggestive light on the nursery story of Dick Whittington; that young gentleman of good family, who became Lord Mayor of London.

In the days of the Quayside Wall, and when time was hastening it away, weddings were recorded by the newspapers in florid fashion, of which an example offers itself in a foot-note of the quarto of Mr. Richard Welford on the *Monuments and Tombstones of the Church*

of *St. Nicholas*, appropriate to the period of Lords Stowell and Eldon, for it commemorates the marriage of their renowned schoolmaster, August, 1764 :—" On Thursday, the Rev. Mr. Moises, M.A., headmaster of the Free School, Newcastle, and Lecturer of All Saints' Church, was married at St. Andrew's Church to Mrs. Boag, a polite and agreeable widow, with a fortune of £10,000. — (*Newcastle Chronicle*.)"

Gallowgate had at this time its Spring Garden promenades and musical entertainments; and then, as now, our climate being fickle and inconstant, a decree was made, that on account of the uncertainty of the weather, undress shall be the rule of the gay resort on concert-nights.

The pillory is drawing vast crowds to the Sandhill. In 1776, Jean Gray is exhibited to the public for perjury. Six thousand of the inhabitants are assembled, who are licensed to assist the authorities in meting out the poor sinner's punishment. Lightfingered gentry, profiting by the opportunity, reap a harvest from the pockets of the gaping multitude. Here, too, bulls are baited; until, in January, 1768, a young mariner, Keenlyside Henzell by name, venturing too near the ring, is gored to death by the maddened prisoner, and the brutal sport is brought to an end.

John Wesley, whose parish was the world, and who brought under correction so much of social rudeness and wrong, comes over from Ireland to Newcastle in August, 1767. He had laid the foundation stone of the Orphan House in 1742, and now revisits once more the scene of his beneficent labours; while, in the ensuing month of September, George Whitefield also preaches, with his wonted fervour, in the Castle Garth, the last time of his presence in Newcastle.

The spire of St. Ann's had received its vane in 1767. In September, 1768, on the second day of the month, comes the Bishop of Durham, the munificent Trevor, preceded by massive gifts of communion plate, and the new structure, compiled out of the old Quayside Wall, has its consecration for use; Dr. Fawcett, the Vicar of Newcastle, delivering the opening discourse from Ephesians ii., 21, 22, with the Mayor and his Brethren forming part of the congregation. The good work which the Corporation had set on foot, and the King

in Council had approved and sanctioned, was now accomplished ; and *Sykes* has in chronological reserve the improvement by which it was to be accompanied—the more eligible way, to wit, from Newcastle to Shields, that was “struck out” in 1776 “behind Sandgate, and called the New Road.”

The new road and the new church were in their newest gloss, when a “Lady Traveller” arrived on the Tyne, the prelude to “A Sentimental Journey through Newcastle.” “Seeing St. Ann’s on her first round of the town,” the fair tourist was “charmed with the neatness and simplicity which adorned the little chapel, both without and within ;” and “on inquiring who was the architect, we were told that it was built from a plan of Mr. Newton, a gentleman whose works we had more than once admired in the view of Newcastle. Whilst we were admiring the delightful prospect we had from this place of the river Tyne and its banks, Mr. Brookly informed us that there were several very extensive rope-walks in this neighbourhood, and that a great number of ships were built near the place.” Her attention, moreover, was probably drawn to the extract in *Bourne* from Gray’s *Chorographia* of 1649:—“Below, east, is the Ballist Hill, where the women upon their heads carried ballist which was taken forth of ships which came empty for coales, which place was the first ballist shoare out of the towne.”

An airy suburban eminence, its suitableness as a drying ground was early recognised by the maids and matrons of the vicinity ; nor were the Newcastle apprentices slow to detect its amenity as a park and promenade. Idyllic were the scenes thus presented by the margin of the Tyne. Hither, in the summer of 1633, on his way to Scotland, came Charles the First, knighting the Mayor, Lionel Maddison, on the 4th of June. Next day, attended by his retinue and escorted by the Master and Brethren of the Trinity House, the King visited Tyne-mouth Castle. Voyaging to and fro, objects of interest were pointed out to the royal and illustrious passengers, not omitting the crowded Ballast Hills, the site of the so recent Shrovetide Riot, which had risen to the dignity of an affair of State. Not belonging to my subject, it must be dismissed with this passing notice, and left to the forthcoming volume of Mr. Welford’s *History of Newcastle and Gateshead*, where it will have its proper chronological place.

The 'Trinity barge returns from Tynemouth on the twilight tide ; and over the lapse of centuries we hear the stalwart oarsmen regaling their unwonted audience with "sailors' music." Nearing Newcastle, they "sing at St. Ann's their evening hymn ;" and, stroke after stroke, King and courtiers are drawn to the landing place at the Quayside Wall.

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#### XIV.—AN ATTEMPT TO TRACE THE DELAVALS FROM THE TIME OF THE NORMAN CONQUEST TO THE PRESENT DAY.

BY THE REV. E. H. ADAMSON, M.A.

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[Read on the 24th November, 1886.]

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THOUGH the name of Delaval does not occur, we believe, on the Roll of Battle Abbey, yet is there no doubt, according to Mr. Planché (*The Conqueror and his Companions*), that Hamon, second son of Guy de Laval in the province of Maine where the old castle is still in existence, together with his son Guy afterwards third Lord de Laval, did come over to England with the Conqueror, whose niece, Dionysia or Denise, the young lord married. The Delavals were rewarded with large grants of manors and estates in various counties of England, which they and their successors, some of whom are mentioned by Dugdale, held together with their French possessions until the reign of King John, when they forfeited the former by their rebellion. Of the French family, an account extending over many centuries may be seen in the work entitled *L'Art de vérifier les Dates*, and it is only quite recently that the name of Montmorency-Laval has disappeared from the pages of the *Almanach de Gotha*. How the Delavals of Northumberland were related to the main line we cannot say, for there is no reliance to be placed on the pedigrees so far as concerns the earlier descents, as they are self-contradictory and inconsistent with the public records. But it is certain that they were seated in this neighbourhood very soon after the Conquest.